

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair
Shirley Canniff
Donald Vitters
Jim Robillard
Elena Bartholomew, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, May 19, 2015
Arlington Senior Center
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM for its meeting in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

Members in attendance included: Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Don Vitters, and Associate Members Elena Bartholomew and Peter Hedlund. Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly was also present.

Members from the public: Dan Shine, Facility Supervisor Dave Cunningham, Matt Mansfield, and Mustafa Varoglu.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 14, 2015 were approved as amended on a motion by Ms. Rothenberg, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

There were no comments.

Rink Rental Policy Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the draft rink rental policy. Mr. Connelly stated that there were several meetings with users on the draft policy, and various input was received from the users that was used to modify the policy throughout the process. Mr. Connelly asked those in attendance if they thought the policy was acceptable. Both Mr. Shine and Mr. Mansfield stated that the policy was a good starting point and that having the existing process in writing was a huge step forward. Mr. Connelly stated that the policy, like all Commission policies, was adaptable and could be modified and changed at anytime by the Commission, if different issues arise. The Commission agreed that the policy appears fair, adheres to contractual obligations with the DCR and was worth the effort of all involved.

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the Rink Rental Policy, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Mr. Connelly asked Mr. Cunningham to give the Commission a brief rink update, while he was in attendance. Mr. Cunningham updated the Commission on the success of the last year, past and future capital projects and potential positive scheduling changes. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Cunningham about

422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474
Telephone (781) 316-3880 Fax (781) 641-5495

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair
Shirley Canniff
Donald Vitters
Jim Robillard
Elena Bartholomew, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

increased public skating time options. Mr. Cunningham reviewed several plans for additional public skating hours and special events with the Commission. Mr. Cunningham thanked Recreation Supervisor Erin Campbell for initiating some great new programs. The Commission thanked Mr. Cunningham for the update and his work.

Special Requests

Diana Arezzo – Robbins Farm 7/19 – Square Dancing

The Commission discussed this event. Mr. Connelly stated that he did speak with Ms. Arezzo about, in the future, getting event approval from the Commission prior to applying for a cultural council grant.

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.

Jerome Moisand – Spy Pond Park 6/27, 6/28 – Carp Fishing

The Commission discussed the success of past events. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Jeffrey Alexander – Robbins Farm – 5/20, 7/11, 8/22 -Astronomy Nights

Mr. Connelly discussed the annual request and noted that the time and number of events has decreased from past years. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Friends of Spy Pond – Clean-up Days – Various Dates

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Tanner Pride Softball- Bishop and Buzzell – 8/1 and 8/2

Mr. Connelly reviewed this annual request that helps support the AHS softball program. The Commission discussed the request. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0 with the condition that high school age games do not take place at Bishop Field.

Ottoson Middle School – Thorndike – Team Building – 6/24, 8th Grade Field Day – 6/22

Mr. Connelly reviewed the events. The Commission discussed making the recommendation to OMS that they include additional portable restrooms for the events. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Kamal Chadha – Menotomy Rocks Birthday – June 13, 2015

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request for both archery and horse/pony rides to be held at Menotomy Rocks Park for a private birthday party. Mr. Connelly explained to the Commission that a requirement would be that the archery instructor would be the same vendor that is used by the Recreation Department. Mr. Connelly and the Commission discussed the uniqueness of this request and what effect this might have on future requests. Mr. Connelly did state that neither request was against any existing bylaw but that it did raise the level of expectation for private birthday parties in the parks. The logistics of such an event were

422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474
Telephone (781) 316-3880 Fax (781) 641-5495

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair
Shirley Canniff
Donald Vitters
Jim Robillard
Elena Bartholomew, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

discussed. The picnic area in the back field is ordinarily where birthday parties are permitted, and Rec. Dept. archery, which is held on weekdays, is in the front field at the Jason St. entrance. The Commission does not encourage vehicles driving into the park, so set up activities for archery and horses/ponies would have to happen in space not designated for private party usage. The Commission discussed safety concerns with having both activities on a busy Saturday in the park and also questioned the intrusiveness of such a private event on public enjoyment of the park, since multiple areas of the park would have to be involved. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to deny the request, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Commission Topic Leader Discussion

Off Leash Park and Program –

Mr. Connelly shared the written concerns from Mr. Varoglu and a related incident at Menotomy Rocks Park. Mr. Varoglu reviewed the incident and expressed concern that the current off leash rules were not being followed or enforced. The Commission discussed these concerns and agreed that the existing rules need stricter enforcement. Mr. Varoglu asked for additional signage requesting that people call if they witness a violation in the off leash program, along with the appropriate phone number. The Commission discussed the idea and asked Mr. Connelly to install two temporary signs at both park entrance points. Mr. Connelly did state that signage did already exist but he would install additional signage.

Mr. Connelly stated that he felt it was appropriate to ask the Animal Control Officer to attend a future meeting to review the state of the parks with the Commission. The Commission agreed and asked Mr. Connelly to extend the invitation.

Capital Projects Update

Spy Pond Tennis Courts

Mr. Connelly updated the Commission on the tennis court reconstruction, stating that at this time there were two drainage manholes on plans that could not be found on site. The contractor is working with DPW to identify their location. Mr. Connelly stated that at this time it is difficult to say if this would impact the schedule.

ADA and Capital Budget Review

Ms. Mayer reviewed the updated multi-year capital budget with the Commission, which included the ADA funding from various sources to date and updated capital budgets with ADA estimates included. It was cross-referenced to the latest Capital Planning Committee information and included identification of projects that are targeted for CPA funding. The Commission reviewed the report and the prioritization of

422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474
Telephone (781) 316-3880 Fax (781) 641-5495

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair
Shirley Canniff
Donald Vitters
Jim Robillard
Elena Bartholomew, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

ADA projects. Mr. Connelly stated that this document was an excellent overview and accurate representation of the total current capital picture.

Other

Ms. Mayer discussed the Open Space and Recreation Plan need for edits and more information, based on State review. Ms. Mayer will get back to the Commission if any further information is requested from the Commission.

Mr. Connelly shared the FOSPP request to purchase some of the temporary art pieces from Art Rocks Spy for the park. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to instruct the FOSPP to begin the process by completing the newly adopted Public Art Guidelines, but that in the interim all of the temporary art should be removed at the end of the event as previously determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation